



LARRY WALKER

Vice Chairman
District 8

P. O. Box 1234
Perry, Georgia 31069
478.987.1415
478.987.1077 (Fax)

lwalker@whgb-law.com

MAY 2009

REPORT FROM MAY 22 BOARD MEETING IN DOUGLAS/COFFEE COUNTY

The State Transportation Board approved the letting of 41 projects, valued at \$138 million, in the second installment of projects in Phase One of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Additionally, the Board approved another nine (9) regularly programmed projects for letting with an estimated value of \$11.5 million. All of the projects administered by the Department will be let on June 19, with projected contract awards following a week later and construction beginning in August.

The combined total from this month's release and the previous month is 90 ARRA Georgia projects for a total of \$249 million in contracts. There are still approximately 45 more projects in Phase One that will be let in future months. Additionally, the Board will select more projects for Phase Two ARRA funds totaling about \$340 million.

Three (3) of the Board Committees held meetings in advance of the full Board meeting; Alternative Financing, Intermodal and Finance. The Intermodal committee reviewed the current status of ARRA funds related to Aviation and Transit programs, the latest on development of a state-wide rail plan, and the impact of the April flooding in South Georgia on state-owned rail lines. The Alternative Financing committee discussed the creation of a new division at the Department to handle PPI projects. PPI projects can be considered viable options on projects that provide significant congestion mitigation or economic development benefits for Georgia citizens. The Finance committee reviewed the latest progress on the Department's efforts on right of way de-authorizations, which now total approximately \$150 million.



Safe Routes to School Award

Macon Walk & Roll
Appling Middle School
Barden Elementary School
Burghard Elementary School
King-Danforth Elementary School
Riley Elementary School

Highway Mowing and Maintenance Update

Due to budget constraints, the Department is reducing all mowing and maintenance activities with the exception of those directly relating to the immediate safety of the traveling public. We hope to return to a regular mowing schedule sometime after July 1st.

We will continue to ensure the safety of the traveling public in the following ways:

- "safety mowing" roadsides, shoulders, and median areas to regain optimum sight distance whenever there is a need
- clearing vegetation as needed to ensure that roadway signage remains visible
- to ensure guardrail visibility



GDOT and State Farm Insurance Unveil New Sponsorship Initiative



On May 22nd, GDOT held a media event announcing the new HERO sponsorship by State Farm Insurance Company. This collaborative sponsorship agreement is designed to create long-term supplemental funding for the Department.

Sponsorship fees will be used solely to support and supplement the operation of the HERO program, which currently has an annual operating budget of approximately \$7.5 million, 80 percent of which is provided by federal funds, 20 percent by state revenues.

Pictured L to R – Gerald Ross, Dana Lemon, Governor Perdue, Brandon Beach and State Farm's Tim McFadden

Next State Transportation Board Meeting: June 18th, Atlanta